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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/990,779	11/14/2001	Terrell Jones	8250.1526-00	3140

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EXAMINER

AL HASHEMI, SANA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2171

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/990,779

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Examiner

Sana Al-Hashemi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

Claim Status: 1-31 are rejected.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Vance et al (US Patent No. 6,442,526).

1. Regarding Claims 1, and 7, Vance discloses a method for processing a query of a travel database, comprising:

receiving a selected arrival location and a selected departure location (see Fig. 14C, orientation and destination, Vance);

finding a set of desirable fares between the arrival location and the departure location (see Fig. 14D, Flight list, Vance);

constructing possible itineraries between the arrival location and the departure location associated with the desirable fares (see column 5, lines 31-33, Vance);

applying a set of rules to the possible itineraries; querying an availability portion of the travel database for available travel units for the one or more travel segments based upon the applied set of rules and the possible itineraries (see Fig. 14D, status, Vance); and

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displaying the available travel units in a calendar-based user interface (see Fig. 14E, 376, Vance).

2. Regarding Claims 2, and 8, Vance discloses a method wherein the calendar-based user interface displays applicability data and availability data simultaneously (see Fig. 14D, 372, Vance).

3. Regarding Claims 3, and 9, Vance discloses a method wherein applicability data comprises an indication of whether a travel unit is allowed on a prespecified day based on the set of rules (see column 7, and 8, lines 65-67, and 1-25, respectively, Vance).

4. Regarding Claims 4, and 10, Vance discloses a method wherein the availability data comprises an indication of whether a travel unit is at least one of (1) available for sale and (2) sold out (see Fig. 14D, status, Vance).

5. Regarding Claims 5, and 11, Vance discloses a method wherein the calendar-based user interface comprises a display of at least a portion of a calendar (see Fig. 14E, 376, Vance).

6. Regarding Claims 6, and 12, Vance discloses a method wherein the display further includes user-selectable hyperlinks for selecting a desired travel date (see Fig. 14C, Date and Time, Vance).

7. Regarding Claim 13, Vance discloses a calendar-based user interface for displaying query results from a database containing travel data comprising:

a calendar showing a plurality of days corresponding to the query; an availability indicator for each of the plurality of days showing available itineraries relating to the query (see Fig. 14D, 372, Vance); and

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an applicability indicator for each of the plurality of days showing itineraries relating to the query which apply based on a set of rules and restrictions from travel providers (see Fig. 14D, Detailed Itinerary, Vance).

8. Regarding Claims 14, and 17, Vance discloses a user interface wherein the availability indicator comprises a shaded day within the calendar for indicating whether a travel unit is available on the shaded day (see Fig. 14E, 376, Vance).

9. Regarding Claims 15, and 18, Vance discloses a user interface wherein the availability indicator comprises an availability icon associated with a day within the calendar for indicating whether a travel unit is available on the associated day (see Fig. 14E, 374, Vance).

10. Regarding Claims 16, and 19 Vance discloses a user interface wherein the availability indicator comprises a user-selectable hyperlink associated with a day within the calendar for indicating whether a travel unit is available on the associated day (see column 11, lines 44-56, Vance).

11. Regarding Claims 20, 25, 26, and 31, Vance discloses a method for administering an availability portion of a relational travel database, comprising:

receiving an availability message from a first travel provider (see Fig. 14G, flight list, Vance);

analyzing the availability message to determine one or more affected travel segments (see Fig. 14Q, Original Reservation, Vance);

querying a schedule portion of the relational travel database for the one or more affected travel segments (see Fig. 14Q, Alternate Reservation, Vance); and

writing a record to an availability portion of the relational database based on a status portion of the availability message if the one or more affected travel segments are found in the schedule portion of the relational database (see Fig. 14Q, Trip Activity Log, Vance).

12. Regarding Claims 21, and 27, Vance discloses a method further comprising: initializing the relational travel database by processing a snapshot of existing availability messages at a predetermined time into the availability portion of the relational travel database (see Fig. 14Q, 406, Vance).

13. Regarding Claims 22, and 28, Vance discloses a method further comprising:  
placing the availability message in a queue corresponding to the first travel provider (see Fig. 14R, 408, Vance).

14. Regarding Claims 23, and 29, Vance discloses a method further comprising:  
processing the availability message corresponding to the first travel provider in parallel with an additional availability message corresponding to a second travel provider (see Fig. 14S, 374, Vance).

15. Regarding Claims 24, and 30, Vance discloses a method further comprising:  
adding the availability message to an alternative processing queue if the one or more affected travel segments are not found in the schedule portion of the relational database (see column 13, lines 54-64, Vance).

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*Points of Contact*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to: Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4881. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (703) 308-1436. Any response to this office action should be mailed to: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. Or telefax at phone number (703) 872-9306. For formal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT". Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Receptionist, Arlington, Virginia. 22202.

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Sana Al-Hashemi  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2100  
February 17, 2004

  
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